

# Dump

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is going to be forced, as well as other towns and counties, to go into regional incineration systems."

"You'll never see Cohasset go into a rubbish pick-up system," he predicted. "You won't see it here. There are too many private ways and it could leave a mess on the sidewalks and the side of the road. People wouldn't stand for it."

Papers weren't the only thing flying around at the dump. As everyone well knows, "Joe Laugelle's seagulls" frequent the pit, as well. As for their being a health hazard, Laugelle attested, "If you look up at the wrong time they are," in his usual jocular fashion. Seagulls keep the rodent population down, he added more seriously, and exterminators come down from Quincy twice a week.

"This dump is almost rodent free. It would show if they were here, but they don't come out and there are no rat

holes. I don't like them, I'm scared to death of them," Laugelle admitted.

Eight years ago, until legislation was passed prohibiting open burning, burning was practiced at the 32 year old dump. The conversion of the site to a covered landfill has brought about a reduced life span of the dump. Both Laugelle and the SEA study foresee approximately another five years of continued filling as currently practiced. Laugelle contended that controlled burning for brush, and excess building materials should be allowed even now.

He also feels that people should be forced to recycle glass products and newspapers. "Only about five per cent of people in Cohasset recycle at all," Laugelle said. And those who do, he said, don't bother to separate clear, brown and green glass.

"People should recycle, tie their papers and separate their glass. Public enemy number one at the dump is newspaper and cardboard," he said. The SEA study also recommended the continued and encouraged use of the recycling program.

People are quick to complain to town authorities if there is an inordinate odor from the dump, or if there is too long a wait at the pit, Laugelle commented. What irks him the most is that between five and seven people

a week dump their trash outside the dump gate either when closed or after hours.

Laugelle undauntedly goes through the rubbish in the hopes of finding a letter or bill with a name on it. Usually he finds out who left the stuff there and calls them. "I inform they they're subject to a \$50 fine unless they come down and clean it up." Ninety-five per cent of the people comply after this tactic, he said, the others were on their way out of town for good when they dumped illegally.

Most residents, however,

try to abide by the Board of Health's rules and regulations. Residents who have automobiles registered in Cohasset may use the dump free of charge if their vehicle is displaying a sticker obtainable from the Town Hall. Commercial collectors, and building contractors are subject to a fee of 50 cents per cubic yard of waste with a minimum charge of a dollar payable by coupon. Demolition dumping goes for \$4 per cu. yard, and by special written permit of the Board of Health.

Hours for depositing waste

material are from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. except when closed on Mondays, Wednesdays and all legal holidays.

Although Laugelle, who has been working at the dump for 10 years, insists there is no cocktail activity at the dump, he did admit to having one of the best known Christmas parties around these parts.

"More people got elected by campaigning at the dump than anywhere else," he added. "They're at both gates, in-coming, out-going, and at the pit." It sure is a popular place.



A view of the Cohasset Town Dump.

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Duncan Payne, the Payne's son, further questioned the need for a variance, but requested the board to consider the conversion proposal under the special permit application, anyway. The matter of the variance was taken under advisement.

Marge Doherty, a realtor, noted that large houses are becoming increasingly difficult to sell and for owners to maintain. "It would benefit the people who would like to stay in Cohasset to have super apartments available," she said. Another real estate agent in town concurred and

remarked that Cohasset has been under pressure to offer more apartment type dwellings. "This might relieve some of the problem," she suggested.

Building Inspector and Zoning Officer James Litchfield reminded the assembly that condominiums are allowed in Cohasset within the town bylaws.

Before Board Chairman Robert Booth turned to those in opposition he read a letter from the Board of Health requesting an engineering opinion on the property's sewage system. Engineer Neil Murphy had responded to

the request and stated in a letter that he had inspected the two systems and had found no evidence of system failure.

However, Booth said that he had personal knowledge of a failure within the system in the past and wanted further studies conducted. Mrs. Payne mentioned that a doctor had lived in the main house a few years ago and had conducted his offices there. His activities, she claimed, may have placed a strain on the system then, but she defended its current functioning.

Contractor Robert Pape of Sohler Street said that he knew of frequent system overflows at that property before the Paynes purchased it. Neighbor Laurens McClure remarked that he had recent sewage system problems at his home.

McClure said he was concerned about the prospect of four apartments one house away from his home. He advised the Board to consider the possible change in character to the neighborhood the conversion might create, the tax rate impact, the parking situation and the impact on Sohler Street traffic.



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